

Frequently Asked Questions

“At my last position, waste was managed with much less hassle. Why is it so difficult at the Lab?”



Most likely, your last position was at a University. Most Universities do not have a fully permitted waste facility such as building 85. By being a permitted facility, we can store hazardous waste for up to a year after it comes from an SAA. Most Universities operate “90-day collection” areas. A 90-day facility doesn’t require the oversight that a permitted facility requires, but since we have mixed waste, we need the extra storage time to find off-site treatment and disposal facilities for our waste. The 1-year storage time allows us the freedom to deal with the variety of waste mixtures created by the Lab.

“Why can’t Waste Management characterize and requisition my waste for me?”



Common sense dictates that the person who knows what’s in that waste container is the person that put it there (the generator). It’s also a requirement of the hazardous waste regulations. Waste Management doesn’t have any knowledge of the contents of a container, unless you tell us via the hazardous waste disposal requisition or the radioactive material tag. Filling out a waste disposal requisition is an easy task if the hazardous (or mixed) waste label attached to the container is completed accurately.

“Why can’t Waste Management just come to the lab periodically and take the waste away?”

It would be an inefficient process for us to go to the various labs on a regular schedule when the waste containers may not be full. Much of the waste at the Lab is not generated regularly and we would be picking up containers before they are ready. For us to maintain the lowest treatment and disposal costs, we need to ship full containers. We also want to minimize the handling of containers to keep exposures to chemicals and radioactivity as low as reasonably achievable.

If you have other questions you think are appropriate for this page, please contact me at MMKassis@lbl.gov or x6823.